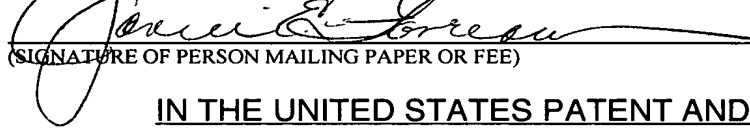


"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER EV 332042455 US
DATE OF DEPOSIT March 11, 2004
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"
SERVICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10 ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED
TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, P.O. BOX 1450,
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Janice E. Favreau

(TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)



(SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:)
)
Takashi Ejiri)
)
Title: DIRECT ACTING PRESSURE)
REDUCING VALVE)
)
Serial No.: Not yet assigned)
)
Filed On: Simultaneously herewith) (Our Docket No: 4415-0022)

Hartford, Connecticut – March 11, 2004

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified
application as follows with reference to the U.S. Application as filed: